economy. The most suggestive insight into a longer familiarity with conditions of famine comes from popular stories. Cannibalism and other drastic measures in times of subsistence crises are a pronounced and recurrent theme.

It would appear that the behavioral measures designed to limit population have been practiced mainly during times of subsistence stress. Decisions regarding population control were probably made by the mother alone relative to her own circumstances.[17] The net result was a relatively limited rate of reproduction for the total population. These solutions were abandoned as subsistence stresses were alleviated by the availability of external resources. Since the introduction of employment and other market opportunities and government subventions after 1940, the Upper Barama River Carib population has not been subject to fluctuations in local resources. Even those segments of the population not directly employed have been affected. The point to emphasize is that external resources need not have been constantly available to the total population to affect the reproductive pattern of the total population. Only some access to external resources conveyed through regional networks of exchange needed to be available during times of subsistence crisis.